

CLAIMS

1. A lens moving device comprising:

a lens support mechanism that supports a lens in such a manner that said lens moves along the optical axis thereof;

5 a drive source that moves said lens along the optical axis;

9 a cam member that is rotated by said drive source, said cam member being molded from synthetic resin and being provided with a stopper; and

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10 a cam follower that comes in contact with said cam member to transmit the rotational movement of said cam member to said lens support mechanism as a linear movement of said lens along the optical axis;

said cam member being provided with a non-operative area with which said cam follower does not come in contact during a normal operation, said non-operative area having a gate mark formed during the resin molding process, said stopper preventing said cam follower from interfering with said gate mark.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said cam follower is provided to said lens support mechanism.

20 3. A device according to claim 1, wherein said cam member has a ring-shaped cam surface with which said cam follower comes into contact, said cam surface including an operative area having a first portion which is inclined to a plane perpendicular to the optical axis of said lens, said non-operative area being provided
25 in a second portion other than said operative area.

4. A device according to claim 3, wherein said stopper has a height such that said cam follower cannot get over said stopper, and extends along a radial direction of said cam member.

5. A device according to claim 1, wherein said stopper comprises first and second stopper members, which are located at both end portions of said non-operative area.

6. A lens moving device comprising:

means for supporting a lens in such a manner that said lens moves along the optical axis thereof;

10 a cam member that has an operative area and a non-operative area, said cam member being molded from synthetic resin, said non-operative area having a gate mark formed during the resin molding process;

means for moving said cam member;

15 a cam follower that comes in contact with said operative area to transmit the movement of said cam member to said supporting means to move said lens in a normal operation, and does not come in contact with said non-operative area during said normal operation; and

20 means for preventing said cam follower from interfering with said gate mark.